

CHRISTIAN UNITY



Newsletter

VOL. VI

SEPTEMBER, 1960

No. 1

FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

The following report on the work of the Council on Christian Unity for 1959-1960 will be presented by the Executive Committee to the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Council on October 24, and upon approval will be presented to the Louisville Assembly of the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), October 21-26.

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

W. J. Jarman, chairman
George Walker Buckner, director

The work of the Central Department is carried out by standing and *ad hoc* committees responsible to and coordinated by the Executive Committee.

Committee on Relations, Representation and Support of National and World Councils

Gaines M. Cook, chairman

Local Church Support of National and World Councils:

	1958-59	1959-60
Churches supporting World Council	587	615
Amount of support to World Council	\$15,266.93	\$16,272.15
Suggested "fair share" of World Council budget	21,910.00	21,910.00
Churches supporting National Council	882	897
Amount of support to National Council	37,521.81*	27,976.37
Suggested "fair share" of National Council budget	32,600.00	32,600.00

* Includes approximately \$10,000 in special individual gifts beyond regular church contributions.

National Council of Churches Inter-Church Center

Since the launching of the campaign at the Denver Assembly, individuals and local churches have contributed a total of \$9,503 to the "Roy G. Ross Tribute Fund." The \$25,000 goal for this special fund represents our special contribution towards the cost for furnishing and equipping the new Inter-Church Center in New York. The deadline for contributions has been extended to June 30, 1961.

Joint Committee on Ecumenical Appointments

Gaines M. Cook, chairman

The Joint Committee (Council on Christian Unity—International Convention) has made the following appointments: 32 voting representatives and alternates of the Biennial Assembly of the National Council of Churches, December, 1960; 10 members of the General Board of the National Council; 9 delegates to the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches, New Delhi, 1961.

Committee on Relations with Churches and Union Movements Abroad

Virgil A. Sly, chairman

No action required this past year.

World Council of Churches—International Missionary Council Integration

Study and discussion of the proposed integration of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council have been continued throughout the past year. A new resolution concerning the integration is to be presented by the Council to the Louisville Assembly.

Relations with Churches in America

American Baptists

Dr. Franklin E. Rector, Professor at Christian Theological Seminary, has completed his study of the Baptist-Disciple unity conversations between 1928 and 1952. He will be presenting this paper to the World Council's Commission on Institutionalism at Scotland in August, 1960.

United Church of Christ (USA)

During the past year Council leaders have continued to observe the uniting process of the United Church and to carry on informal conversations with leaders of that church. The United Church has appointed an Ecumenical Commission.

United Church of Canada

Disciple and United Church Committees meeting jointly continue to work at issues involved in union conversations.

Internal Unity

The Council notes with interest and appreciation the recent conversations on internal unity held in Wichita, Michigan, and Indianapolis and rejoices in the growth of unity within the Brotherhood.

DEPARTMENT OF ECUMENICAL STUDY

Irvin E. Lunger, chairman

Robert Tobias, director

Commission on Rapid Social Change

Prof. Walter W. Sikes, director

The Disciples' Commission on Christian Responsibility Toward Areas of Rapid Social Change, sponsored jointly by the Council and the Department of Social Welfare of The United Christian Missionary Society, held three regional meetings and one meeting of the full Commission during the past year. Now involved in depth study and the preparation of materials for publication, the Commission is planning a consultation in Latin America for early 1961.

Commission on Theology of Mission

Prof. Joseph M. Smith, chairman

Under the joint sponsorship of the Council and the Division of World Mission of The United Christian Missionary Society, the Commission on Theology of Mission held two

two-day meetings during the past year. The Commission prepared and discussed a number of significant papers, including Disciple responses to (1) the World Council of Churches' document on "Christian Witness, Proselytism and Religious Liberty," (2) the preparatory materials for the Third Assembly of the WCC, and (3) the International Missionary Council—World Council of Churches study document on "Theology for Evangelism." The first group of papers produced by members of the Commission were published in the *Ecumenical Studies Series* (Vol. IV, No. 4, January, 1960). In accordance with a detailed schema of work the Commission is moving ahead with an analysis and critique of the missionary work of the Disciples and with the construction of a theology of mission to guide that work.

Commission on Biblical Theology *Prof. William L. Reed, chairman*

Two meetings of the Commission on Biblical Theology during the past year have involved members in study and discussion of various issues and themes of Biblical theology and its contribution to the contemporary life and work of the Church. The Commission seeks to involve Disciples more deeply in the contemporary renaissance of Biblical theology and to contribute guidance for the Disciples' ongoing program of life and work.

DEPARTMENT OF ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Spencer P. Austin, chairman
Virgil A. Sly, director

Inter-Church Aid

After consultation with World Council staff and representatives of churches in the areas concerned, projects totalling \$185,000 were recommended by the Department for inclusion in the 1960 Week of Compassion offering.

Fraternal Workers

Through funds provided by the Week of Compassion offering the Disciples continue to support three fraternal workers: James D. Wyker, Staff of East Pakistan Christian Council; Harry Partin, Secretary for a special World Council-International Missionary Council study of religions; and William Nottingham, Associate Secretary of CIMADE.

Scholarships

Through the Council two scholarships have been awarded for study at the Ninth Session of the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies (1960-61). The fifth annual scholarship for seminary students was awarded to Richard Johnson by the Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago. The fourth annual Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation scholarship for Disciples ministers and laymen went to Dr. William R. Vivrett.

CONFERENCES AND INTERPRETATION

Unity Consultations

Reports and comments on the eleven Unity Consultations held last year along with tabulation of the questionnaires used at these meetings are presently being analyzed and interpreted by Dr. W. B. Blakemore. Following his work there will be a complete report on the consultations and perhaps a national consultation of Disciple leaders.

Bethany Meeting

Together with the Historical Society and Bethany College, the Council sponsored a sesquicentennial convocation in honor of "The Declaration and Address" on October 25 at Bethany, West Virginia.

Elective Study Course

A proposal by the Council for an elective study course on "Five Streams of American Church Life: Evangelical, Reformed, Congregational, Christian, Disciple" has been approved by the Curriculum Planning Council and is to be produced in the near future. This project is intended to help acquaint Disciples with the United Church of Christ in particular as well as to broaden their ecumenical knowledge in general.

Publications

Under the authorization of the Council, Ronald E. Osborn, Howard E. Short, and Robert Tobias drafted and edited *A Response to Oberlin*. This was published jointly by the Council and the College of the Bible.

In addition to several issues of the *Ecumenical Studies Series* and the *Christian Unity Newsletter*, the Council has distributed significant materials from the National and World Councils and has called attention to important new publications. A program planning guide for an ongoing ecumenical program in the local church is presently being prepared for publication.

Staff Travels

Dr. G. W. Buckner, Executive Secretary—meetings of Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Institute and Central Committee of the World Council.

Dr. Robert Tobias, Associate Executive Secretary and Director of Ecumenical Study Department—meetings of World Council of Churches Faith and Order and Divisional Committee of Ecumenical Action, visits with fraternal workers in Paris and Geneva, and Conference of Orthodox and non-Orthodox Theologians.

Dr. Virgil Sly, Director of Department of Ecumenical Service—meeting of Administrative Committee, World Council's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees.

Dr. Walter Sikes, Director of Commission on Rapid Social Change—World Consultation on Rapid Social Change and German Kirchentag.

Prof. Joseph M. Smith, Chairman of Commission on Theology of Mission—Consultation on Theology of Mission and Problems of Rapid Social Change at the Ecumenical Institute.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The major support of the Council is from undesignated contributions through Unified Promotion, plus membership dues and occasional gifts from individuals and churches. Membership is open to Disciples who are in accord with the purpose of the Council.

Income

Unified Promotion:	
Undesignated and Specific	\$27,329.63
Designated	3,755.00
Membership Dues	2,509.51
Sales of Literature	20.00
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	\$33,614.14

Expenditures

Salaries, Pensions, Travel	\$ 6,832.84
Office Expense (Phone, Secretary, etc.)	5,886.74
Office Space	800.04
Office Equipment and Supplies	766.91
Joint Relations	611.88
Unified Promotion and Council of Agencies Expense	1,517.50

Disciples Expense to Meetings of NCC and WCC	813.72
Conferences and Consultations	827.55
Contributions to National Council	586.00
Literature	791.56
Study Department Program	1,925.36
Miscellaneous and Unassigned	379.73
Services to Members from Membership Dues.....	1,624.05
Prepaid for Executive Secretary Participation in Ecumenical Conferences (1961-62)	1,500.00
Prepaid for Expense Related to Change in Executive Leadership (1960-61)	1,500.00
	<u>\$26,363.88</u>

Special Accounts

Received from Week of Compassion and Special Gifts for Senior Ecumenical Services, the Council to serve as agent	\$26,825.70
Disbursements from Ecumenical Services Funds..	25,859.15
Received for Rapid Social Change Studies	\$ 1,000.00
Disbursements for Rapid Social Change Studies Expenses	630.55
Received for Special Book Fund for Council on Christian Unity	\$ 1,231.57
Disbursements from Book Fund	<u>1,080.41</u>

Certificate of Auditor

I have examined the accompanying statements of cash receipts and disbursements of: THE COUNCIL ON CHRISTIAN UNITY, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1960. The examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as were considered necessary in the circumstances, including the confirmation of the amounts on deposit with The American Fletcher National Bank and Trust Company at June 30, 1960, directly with the depository.

The statements have been prepared on a cash receipts and disbursements basis, and therefore do not purport to present financial position and results of operations except as related to cash basis nonprofit organizations.

In my opinion the statements of cash receipts and disbursements for the year ended June 30, 1960, have been fairly summarized on the basis indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

DOW H. SYKES, Certified Public Accountant.

UNITY RESOLUTIONS FOR LOUISVILLE ASSEMBLY

No. 40

Endorsement of Personnel and Policies of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

In the light of many recent attacks made upon the churches of the United States, the clergy, and in particular the denominations affiliated with the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., we submit this resolution to the State Convention of the Ohio Disciples of Christ assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 19 through 22, 1960, urging you to comply with the following:

WHEREAS, false accusations have been made within recent months upon the churches affiliated with the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and their ministers by radio commentators, a few ministers, and laymen, who, as apostles of discord, have been making a comfortable living from lecturing to civic and church groups across the nation.

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force, in a recently published training manual, insinuated that the Revised Standard Version of the Bible is somehow associated with Communist influences.

WHEREAS, the gospel of Jesus Christ demands that the church speak to its culture with a prophetic voice, and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. has spoken courageously on social, political, economic, and religious issues confronting the Christian people of these United States of America.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. We commend Secretary of the Air Force, Dudley Sharp, for withdrawing the Air Force Manual from circulation, and for his stand before the Un-American Activities Committee in February, explaining why he took responsibility for this action.

2. We hereby reaffirm our wholehearted support of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and urge the Christian Churches of Ohio and in our Brotherhood to support, with greater loyalty, the Council.

3. We, the state convention of the Ohio Disciples of Christ, submit this resolution to the International Convention of Christian Churches in their Louisville Assembly urging and recommending they, too favorably consider this resolution.

W. C. Newman
Harry C. Daugherty
J. S. Collins
Willard A. Guy
A. N. Hinrichsen
Robert S. Tuck
Amos S. Cobbey
Elizabeth M. Schwed
William T. Nowlan
C. Edward Weber

Note: The above resolution was approved by the Ohio Convention of Christian Churches May, 1960, and at their request is submitted to the Louisville Assembly for further consideration. Attention is called to *The Truth*, a publication of the National Council giving fuller detail on this matter. Copies available from the Council on Christian Unity.

No. 45

Concerning Integration of The International Missionary Council and The World Council of Churches

WHEREAS, the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and the Administrative Committee of the International Missionary Council have adopted and approved a plan of integration of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, and with provisions for constitution, rules of procedure, finance, staff, etc., and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council have asked member churches to consider the Plan in its final draft form before action at the next Assembly of the World Council of Churches/International Missionary Council, and to take action for the guidance of the World Council of Churches/International Missionary Council and for the instruction of their respective delegates to the Assembly, and

WHEREAS, at the 1959 Assembly of the International Convention approval was given by Disciples for the principle of integration, and

WHEREAS, the final draft of the Plan carries no changes substantially affecting our concern for integration,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that this Assembly of the International Convention declare its approval of the Plan for integration revised at the 1960 meetings of the World Council of Churches and International Missionary Council Committees, the text of which has been studied and approved by our Disciple delegates to the next Assembly of the World Council of Churches/International Missionary Council.

Presented by: Council on Christian Unity Executive Committee.

No. 52

Concerning the National and World Councils of Churches

WHEREAS, the year 1960 marks the tenth anniversary of the formation of the National Council of Churches and the twelfth of

the World Council of Churches, it is particularly appropriate that the churches should appraise the work and purposes of these instruments of cooperation as to their effectiveness in witnessing to the Gospel, serving the needs of the churches, and using the available resources of Christianity for the advancement of the cause of Jesus Christ.

Let it be noted that:

1. The National Council of Churches has brought together the majority of Protestant and Orthodox churches in the largest degree of cooperation in history, manifesting their common spirit and purpose in carrying out their mission to the world by:

- providing a means to its member churches for consultation, mutual enrichment, research, joint planning, and the provision of program resources;
- providing administrative oversight for joint projects which the churches plan jointly and wish to have administered in their behalf;
- providing a common voice to the churches in matters where representatives wish to speak together to the government, to related agencies, or to the public on questions of social policy, or on political or social crises involving moral and spiritual values;
- providing a medium of cooperation with other faith groups and non-church agencies which are dedicated to the welfare of mankind;
- providing an instrument for national relationship to the world, state, and city interdenominational agencies of the churches.

2. To name even a small fraction of the working units of the Council would be lengthy and disclose that every area of the churches' life is served by the Council. Such activities as the Commission on Missionary Education through which the annual missionary education books, film-strips, and study guides are issued reach an estimated seven million people annually; Church World Service distributed last year a total of 355,594,002 pounds of relief supplies such as food, clothes, blankets, medical supplies and other cargo valued at over \$25,000,000; the Department of United Church Women serves the more than two thousand Councils of Church Women across the country; the department of the English Bible promotes the reading of the Bible and is responsible for the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible, of which more than 7,500,000 copies have now been sold; the Broadcasting and Film Commission is responsible for such TV programs as "Frontiers of Faith." This is but a part of the extensive work of the Council.

3. The past ten years make it plainly evident that the National Council does give to the churches of the United States the most satisfactory means thus far available for expressing the measure of unity which they have attained.

4. What is evident in the service of the National Council of Churches to the United States is also to be found in the record of the World Council of Churches on a global scale. For the first time in history, the great churches of the Protestant, Anglican, and Orthodox traditions are members of a visible fellowship. Every member body has been enriched by this fellowship of prayer, thought, and action. Through its Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees the member churches have ministered in Christian love to needy people regardless of their race, nationality, or religion, and at the same time have found this is a way in which the ties, between the churches are strengthened. Through the Division of Studies the churches have begun to explore together their common faith and their mutual commitment to it. The Division of Ecumenical Action has developed more effective ecumenical education not only through such pioneering achievements as the Institute at Bossey, but also through work camps for youth, and the encouragement of the churches to more effective means for the participation of the laity in the life of the church.

THEREFORE, in view of the record of achievement of the National and World Councils of Churches, and of the promise which they hold for the future, BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly:

- reaffirms its faith in the purposes and integrity of the Na-

tional and World Councils of Churches and urges our churches to show their faith by increasing financial support to the National and World Councils of Churches to insure the continued development of their work;

2. that it again recommends that every congregation make at least some contribution to the work of the National and World Councils of Churches to have a visible part in the fellowship of Christians which extends beyond the boundary of denomination or country;

3. that it lays upon the consciences of our members the Christian duty to be informed accurately of the scope and manner of work which these two agencies of the churches carry out, not only because of our concern for every movement toward the unity of the Church, but also because of a Christian's accountability to the God of truth. In recent years there have been systematic and perverse distortions of the truth by noisy detractors who seek to undermine and destroy the confidence of Christians in the agencies of their churches, who plot to gag the voice of Christian conscience and scheme to use the ignorance of people to their own advantage. All institutions, including the church, stand under judgment and need the corrective of sober and discerning appraisal. But wanton criticism which distorts and deceives is not concerned with truth but with destruction.

To the "Noisy Detractors" who in attacking the National Council or the World Council also attack the member churches and therefore ourselves, we reply: "Let the truth be known. We are not ashamed of the record of the Councils, and we are not afraid of any honest and impartial investigation. We rejoice in the measure of unity which has been attained through the Councils, the significance of the work accomplished, and affirm again our conviction of conscience to be responsible members of both the National and World Councils of Churches."

The Council on Christian Unity

No. 53

Reaffirming Some Convictions of Disciples of Christ About Christian Unity

WHEREAS, this year, 1960, marks the fiftieth anniversary of both the Council on Christian Unity, and the beginning of the modern ecumenical movement at the conference at Edinburgh,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. that we reaffirm the primacy of our witness for the unity of the church of Christ and commit ourselves anew to all worthy efforts to bring nearer the visible unity of all Christians in one church that the world may be saved and the Lord Jesus Christ exalted;

2. that we note with thanksgiving to God the many signs of a growing unity among the churches in the past fifty years, the formation of the World Council of Churches, the establishment of the National Council of Churches, the increasing interest in Christian unity among the various communions, and the signs of a disturbed conscience among Christians who are becoming more aware of the sin of division;

3. that we, especially in this year, are thankful for the formation of the United Campus Christian Fellowship with the merger of the student movements of four denominations: Evangelical United Brethren, the United Church of Christ, the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and the Disciples of Christ, and pray that this venture of our youth will bring further and fuller unity in the years to come.

The Council on Christian Unity

Christian Unity Newsletter: Issued quarterly to members and friends of the Council by the Council on Christian Unity (an association of Disciples of Christ for the promotion of Christian unity, for ecumenical fellowship and service), 222 So. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana, U.S.A. Robert Tobias and Robert Heckard, editors.

UNITY EVENTS AT LOUISVILLE

Saturday, October 22

- 7:00 A.M.—Quest Breakfasts Theme: "The Oneness of the Mission of the Church."
 9:30 A.M.—Convention Assembly Morning Address, "The Mission of the Church in a New Age," by Roy G. Ross.
 12:15 P.M.—Luncheon, Fortieth Anniversary Festival, East Wing Exposition Center. Theme: "Into All the World Together."

- 8:00 P.M.—Convention assembly, Freedom Hall. Citation Service for George Walker Buckner, World Call editor and Ex. Secretary, Council on Christian Unity.

Monday, October 24

- 5:30 P.M.—Dinner for Annual Meeting of Council on Christian Unity, Kentucky Hotel, Mirror Room.

Tuesday, October 25

- 8:00 A.M.—Breakfast, Rapid Social Change Commission, Brown Hotel.
 12:30 P.M.—Luncheon for Board of Directors of Council on Christian Unity. Brown Hotel Parlors A, B, C.